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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: THOMSON LICENSING S.A. [FR/FR]; 46, Quai A. LeGallo, F-92648 Boulogne (FR).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: TESTIN, William, John [US/US]; 6808 Winona Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46236-9506 (US). MCCARTHY, William, Patrick [US/US]; 7832 Pennyroyal Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46237 (US). NICHOLSON, John, Edward [US/US]; 8814 Skippers Way, Indianapolis, IN 46256 (US).

(74) Agents: TRIPOLI, Joseph, S. et al.; Two Independence Way, Suite #200, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).

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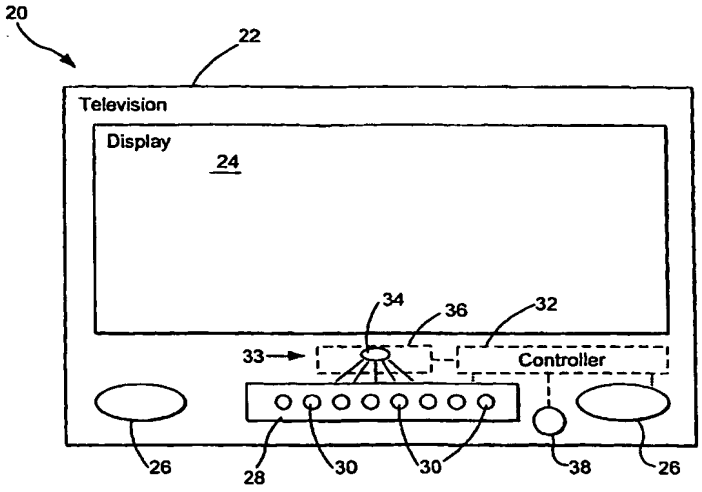
(54) Title: VARIABLE INTENSITY ILLUMINATION DEVICE WITH DETECTION AND CONTROL CIRCUIT FOR A FRONT PANEL OF A TELEVISION APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A variable intensity light device (33) is provided to illuminate front panel user buttons in a television apparatus. The television apparatus allows user control of the level of light intensity preferably via an on-screen menu. Automatic detection circuitry/logic is also provided that detects whether a light such as an LED is present upon initial user set-up. This allows the inclusion of the light device in televisions whose controllers are already designed. Moreover, the light device preferably utilizes a single wire for light presence detection and intensity control. Detection of the light causes the television apparatus to include a light control on-screen menu in the main television on-screen menu. Preferably, the light control menu allows the user selection of at least six different brightness or intensity levels for the light. In one form, the light is a diode (34) that provides blue light though a light pipe (42).

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